(d) and (e) A decision to replace an old dam with a new dam cannot be taken only on the basis of seepage through the dam. Such a situation may arise only if all avenues to restore the safety of the dam as well as functional capability of the dam have been exhausted. All possible alternatives need to be examined by the State Governments/owners of the dam from techno-economic considerations.

Alarming level of ground water in Delhi

2475. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that groundwater levels in various parts of the country particularly in Delhi have dipped alarmingly low;

(b) if so, whether the Central Ground- Water Authority (CGWA) have conducted any survey to know the factors responsible for dipping of groundwater levels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure proper groundwater levels?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As per studies conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), decline in the level of ground water has been observed in various parts of the country including NCT Delhi due to withdrawal of ground water in excess of annual recharge.

Government has taken following steps to ensure proper ground water levels:-

- Implementation of a scheme on Artificial Recharge to ground water through Dug wells.
- Implementation of a demonstrative scheme on Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in identified areas during the period 2006-09.
- Circulation of Model Bill to States/UTs to facilitate ground water regulation and water harvesting for artificial recharge.
- Organization of National Ground Water Congress for sharing information and achieving coordination among stakeholders.
- Constitution of Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among stakeholders.
- Setting up of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for the purpose of Regulation and Control of Ground Water Management and Development.

Development of Water Management

2476. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments have urged the Central Government to further relax the guidelines for inclusion of schemes and assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies and Command Areas Development and Water Management;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto;

(c) whether the grants to various States for irrigation schemes are provided as per the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Requests from the State Governments for modifications/further liberalization of guidelines of the Programme and examination/modification in the guidelines is a continuous process taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources from time to time. Guidelines for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme were last amended in December 2006 by the Central Government making them more liberal and oriented to giving major thrust to development of irrigation facilities in drought prone/tribal areas, in the States having irrigation development below national average and in agrarian distressed districts of Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra included in the Prime Minister's relief package. For the Command Area Development and Water Management programme, the condition of inclusion of project only against completion/deletion of a project has been relaxed for the remaining four years of Eleventh Plan (2008-09 to 2011-12) for projects in the Prime Ministers package for agrarian distressed districts, projects in drought prone/tribal areas, projects in States having irrigation development below national average and projects in special category States/areas *i.e.*, North Eastern Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Kalahandi Bolangir Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa.

(c) and (d) The grants to the State Governments are provided as per guidelines of these programmes approved by the Central Government.

Baglihar hydro electric project

2477. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State-run Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation has affected the changes in the design of Baglihar power project as suggested by the neutral expert of the World Bank of adjudicate the dispute between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether Pakistan has expressed its satisfaction over India's willingness to affect changes as suggested by the World Bank expert; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) has carried out the changes in the design of Bagliahar Hydroelectric